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growing without disturbance. Although the complete verification of this phenomenon in dry weather requires patience and attention, it cannot be attended with difficulty after heavy rains. The so-called bifurcations of large rivers, often referred to in the writings of geographers, are entirely different in character; being, in fact, rather Siamese twin junctions by intermediate channels; while this, though on a very small scale, is an instance of a true bifurcation, and appears to be of comparatively rare occurrence in a permanent form.*

XXXV.—ON THE DISCOVERY OF THREE EARTHEN VASES AT PALMERSTOWN, COUNTY OF DUBLIN, ONE OF WHICH CONTAINED HUMAN REMAINS, FRAGMENTS OF SHELL, AND DOG BONES. By DR. W. FRAZER, M. R. I. A., Hon. Member Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, &c.

[Read June 22, 1868.]

PORTIONS of three earthen vases were recently obtained at Palmerstown, county of Dublin, all of them unfortunately broken into pieces by the rude treatment they got when found by the labourers. One of these urns, of small size, presents little of interest. The second, in which human bones were discovered, was of unusual bulk, its mouth measuring eleven inches in diameter; its peculiar style of ornamentation is also deserving of remark. Around the third vase, the mouth of which was about seven inches in diameter, was built a carefully constructed kist of flags; it contained portions of the bones of a human being, two fragments of shell, and also some dog bones; a strange assemblage that remind us of the "Kitchen Middens" of Denmark, and of our own shores, in which human remains are found mixed with shells, and occasionally also the bones of man's faithful companion in the chase, his dog. Unlike, however, to these "Kitchen Middens," no weapons were discovered in or near the locality where these vases were procured.

A pit or quarry, marked on the Ordnance Maps, has been long worked for raising boulder stones for paving and macadamizing purposes immediately beyond the village of Palmerstown, and within a short distance of the River Liffey; it is excavated in the alluvial drift, and its open banks present good views of that deposit, which throughout the district covers over the stratified rocks, the mass of rolled stones imbedded in tenacious clay rising within a foot or eighteen inches of the soil. This pit is situated in a rich grass field that slopes down to the river. Early in June, 1868, when the workmen were excavating the western side of the quarry, which is about ten feet deep, a fall of the

* Some of the discussions in the "Athenæum," referred to in note, p. 335, relate to the phenomena of lakes with two outlets. It now seems that Lough Derg (Donegal) may be included among such lakes, for in addition to its principal outlet, which flows towards the north into the Atlantic, there is a second smaller outlet, which discharges itself southwards into Lough Erne.

bank took place and exposed one of the vases, enclosed in a stone cyst : the other large vase was discovered in a similar manner a few days afterwards, but imbedded in earth, there being no stones under or around it. When the labourers found these vessels contained only bones, they amused themselves by throwing stones at them and breaking them into fragments ; a few of the larger pieces, and of the bones, were preserved and brought to Richard A. Gray, Esq., County Surveyor, who kindly placed them at my disposal ; I visited the locality, and got the particulars of their discovery from the workmen, who likewise gathered for me all the pieces they could collect of the broken vessels : in arranging them I detected the third or smaller vase, upwards of half this vase remaining in fragments, mixed with the pieces of the larger vessels : it had not been noticed by the workmen, but probably fell down from the side of the quarry when the other vessels became uncovered.

The vase, Fig. 1, was found about five feet nearer the river than the large one ; sufficient of its fragments remain to enable us to judge of its size and form by cementing them together (for this purpose I employed a cement consisting of bees' wax, Venice turpentine, and starch, which is easily applied when warm, and adheres with great firmness. I can recommend it to those who wish to restore similar objects). It lay deposited in a rude quadrilateral excavation, placed mouth downwards upon a broad slab of stone, and surrounded on three sides by flat flags, but there was no stone discovered on its east

Fig. 1.

side : this primitive grave or cyst was covered in by two slabs of stone lying in apposition, the chink where they joined being closed by a third slab, thus constituting a rude roof over the chamber. The excavation in which it lay was hollowed out of the upper part of the drift bed, the top of that formation being about level with the covering flags, and upon these rested eighteen inches of undisturbed vegetable soil.

The vessel is hand-made, of coarse baked earthenware, ornamented by rude markings of parallel and vertical lines, with others impressed obliquely, producing rough chevron or herring-bone pattern, of which the engraving gives a good though greatly diminished representation ; it measures ten inches in height, the mouth of the jar being, as already stated, seven inches in diameter, and has the usual graceful form of many similar articles of early pottery ; the interior of the jar is coated on its bottom and along the sides with black carbonaceous matter, forming a thin adhering crust. The fragments of bone that it contained were dry, friable, and evidently of considerable age ; they were of pure white colour ; but it would be impossible to assert with certainty they had been charred or burned, for boiled, or even buried

bones would in the course of time present a similar appearance. As I got all the bones which were contained in this jar when discovered, it is certain there were not one-fourth—perhaps far less—of the bones of a human being in the vessel, though amongst them were portions of several different parts of the skeleton, and these all broken into pieces, few of which exceeded an inch or two in size. Amongst them, aided by my friends, Professor Traquair and Dr. Macalister, I recognised three portions of human skull, through one of which ran a line of suture (probably the lambdoidal), the ungual phalanx of a toe, and a fragment of a second similar bone; also the ungual phalanx of a finger, the fang of a human tooth, a bicuspid which we believe belonged to a lower jaw, a portion of the head and neck of a thigh bone, a piece probably of the ischium, a fragment of the orbit, half the lower articular end of the fibula, and some scaly laminae of ribs, with detached portions of bone that seem to belong to a tibia. There were, further, fifteen small fragments of bone, not human, and which we consider referrible to a dog; of these we can identify a portion of a vertebra, parts of a rib, part of the articular end of a tibia, and pieces of a long bone which was probably the tibia; the rest of the osseous fragments were human, though too much broken up to permit of identification. Mixed with the bones were two pieces of shell—one, a portion of the common oyster; the other the articulating valve of *Lutraria oblonga*, a shell that still abounds in the mud banks of Dublin Bay.

The second earthen vase was described by the workmen as being considerably larger sized and thicker; it is made of coarse materials, imperfectly burned; its outer part is reddish, and at least three-fourths of its thickness still black coloured: the fragments that were obtained proved too imperfect to admit of its restoration, with the exception of the neck, of which three-fourths remained, though broken into many pieces; these form portion of a circle measuring eleven inches in diameter, whilst the neck of the vessel, figured No. 1, was not fully seven and a half inches across; it would appear that both vessels were formed alike in shape, still

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2 represents a piece of the neck of this jar, measuring about two and a half inches.
Fig. 3 is another fragment, about four and a half inches in length.

the style of ornamentation was altogether different. Figs. 2 and 3 are wood-cuts taken from photographs of two portions of the neck of this jar; they afford fair representations of the appearance of the outside markings: along the upper edge was a row of v-formed striæ im-

pressed with some indenting tool, which produced such impressions as would result from a piece of fine twisted cord wrapped round the end of a stick; under this was disposed a row of rude imitations of roses or raised flowers, and beneath those an irregular line of oblique indented markings not continuous round the vessel; farther down, where the neck swelled out into the body of the vessel, appear to have been alternating roses, and rather well designed wreaths made by continuous impressions of the indenting tool; the entire presenting an elaborate pattern that appears, so far as I can ascertain, unique amongst Irish sepulchral urns; the inside of the neck was likewise ornamented by three oblique lines of striations running in opposite directions; many of them well formed by the indenting tool, and others rude impressions, such as the sharp edge of a stone or brick would produce; the entire conveying an impression that the fabricator had commenced his task with skill and taste, and tiring over it, had endeavoured to complete it in a ruder style with rapidity. Some pieces of the body of this vase which were recovered were decorated in keeping with the pattern on the neck; in others rough ovals are marked out by angular impressions of some sharp-edged instrument that surround a raised rose or central boss, as in Fig. 4; a much diminished representation of the largest fragment that was got, it measuring about four inches in both diameters.

Fig. 4.

When the falling cliff disclosed the vase, it was found lying mouth downwards in an excavation prepared in the upper surface of the drift, and covered with undisturbed soil; there were no flags placed under or around it; all the surrounding space being filled in with fine clay, from which the larger stones and pebbles had been separated; it was then entire, and one of the workmen, breaking it to seek for treasure, found in it only bones; these were black, softened, and in fragments. I saw them where they were thrown in the quarry; they were evidently human remains, but crumbled to pieces when exposed to the air.

The third vase that was discovered was small, its height being six and a half or seven inches, and its neck little more than four inches in diameter; it was made from a bluish clay that burns pale yellowish brown; the upper part of the body was marked by a rude cross-bar pattern of decussing lines, whilst round its lip, and at the junction of its body and neck, are parallel lines dividing horizontal patterns made by oblique indentations. The recognition of this jar was accidental; its fragments were brought to me mixed with portions of the large-sized vessel, but the workmen were ignorant of its existence, and stated positively they had noticed only two jars; they were assured this small one could not have been inside the larger one, for they broke it open *in situ* before the cliff fell, to seek for treasure, and finding only bones, destroyed it.

I am disposed to believe it lay buried very close to the large jar, and fell down in the cliff with it.

The fragments of all these jars were thrown into a heap of stones broken for repairing roads, and much of it carted off before I reached the quarry; what I got were recovered by having the residue of several tons of broken stones sifted and examined by workmen. I have deposited the specimens in the Museum of the Academy.

Note.—A few days ago I had the opportunity of seeing the late Dr. Petrie's collection of sepulchral vases, through the kindness of Mr. Clibborn. He directed my attention to the fragments of one in particular, which was of unusual size, probably as large as the great vase I have described: of this about one-third remains in broken pieces. It is entered by Dr. Petrie in his Catalogue, but I know not on what authority, as "portions of a *regal urn* found in Co. Sligo." It has rude elevations or ridges running obliquely over the exterior, and decussating, which produces a large chequered ornamentation; within those are rough bosses, that appear intended for imitating flowers, very similar to the roses on my large vase; they are, however, executed in coarser and more primitive style.

XXXVI.—ON A CURIOUS INSCRIBED STONE FOUND AT TULLAGH CHURCH-YARD, NEAR CABINTEELY, CO. DUBLIN. By HENRY PARKINSON, Esq.

[Read June 22, 1868.]

DURING a recent visit to the ancient burying-place of Tullagh, which contains within its precincts many objects of interest to the antiquarian, my attention was attracted to a very curious inscribed stone which lay close to the ruins of the old church of Tullagh, almost completely hid with earth and weeds. On clearing away the latter, I discovered certain circular carvings on its upper surface. As I can find no reference to it either in the writings of that observant antiquarian, Dr. Petrie, or in any of the works I have consulted on the subject, I am inclined to think that no one has hitherto noticed it; and, therefore, annex the following particulars, with a view of drawing the attention of antiquarians to a very interesting specimen of a class of ancient monuments which the present Bishop of Limerick designates as "previously undescribed" in a paper read before the Academy on the 13th of February, 1860.